

Whatever It Takes

Mississippian leading the good fight in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (Special) — Several years ago, Melanie found herself in a desperate situation. Homeless and struggling with substance abuse, she was pregnant and sleeping under a bridge in Oklahoma City. Life seemed hopeless.

A newspaper article caught her eye, emphasizing the city of New Orleans struggling to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. Desperate to rebuild her life as well, Melanie set out for New Orleans and on the path to a divine appointment with LoveLoud missionary Kay Bennett.

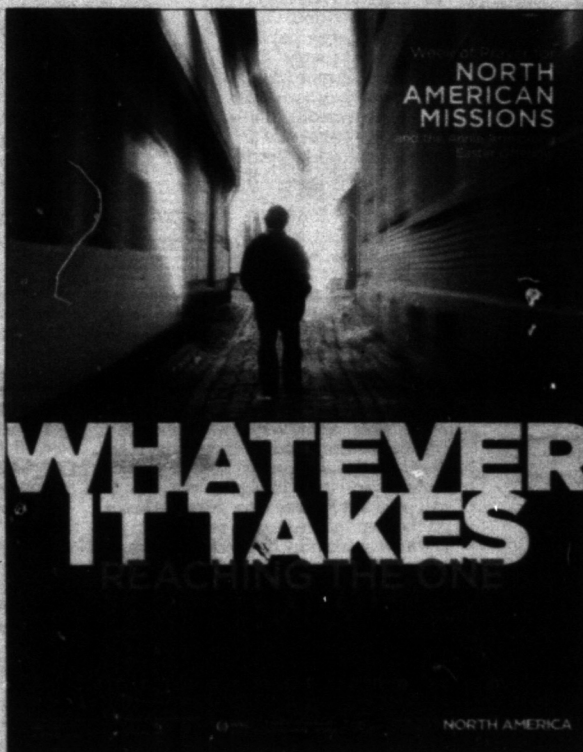


BENNETT

"Melanie contacted me and came into our transitional housing program," Bennett explains. "She got a job, got into college, and is working towards her social work degree now. She came to us because she knew she needed help, and we offered her the support she needed to succeed."

Melanie is just one of hundreds of women that Kay Bennett

see NEW ORLEANS on p. 5



MBC nominations being accepted

The 2013 Committee on Nominations approved by the messengers to the 177th Mississippi Baptist Convention will soon begin reviewing the trustee/board member positions on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) to serve in 2014. According to James Lewis, committee chairman and pastor of DeSoto Hills Church, Southaven, there are a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:

- Baptist Children's Village
- Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson)
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis)
- Board of Ministerial Education
- Education Commission
- Historical Commission
- Blue Mountain College
- Mississippi College
- William Carey University

■ Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, Inc.

■ Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

■ Mississippi Baptist Foundation

The Committee on Nominations will work with the heads of the institutions and agencies to bring a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers of the 178th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 29-30 at First Church, Jackson.

For nomination forms, contact Brenda Box, Executive Administration - Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Email: bbox@mbcb.org. Telephone: (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201.

Completed forms should be sent to the Committee on Nominations, Attn: Brenda Box, Executive Administration, at the above address to be received no later than May 1.

San Francisco church 'life-changing' under couple's leadership

SAN FRANCISCO (Special) — There are more affluent places in the United States than San Francisco, but not many. Living in that environment can numb people to need. Ben Pilgreen knows God is in the perspective-changing business.

Pilgreen and his team, including wife Shauna, launched Epic Church in the fine arts district of San Francisco two years ago. He led Epic's first international missions experience, to Uganda, in summer 2012.

"Our trip to Uganda was incredible," says Pilgreen, pastor of Epic Church in the Bay City. "People throw the term 'life-changing' around, but it truly was life changing for some of our people. The team of 14 was so impressed we are already scheduled to return next year," he says.

Pilgreen is a North American Mission Board church planter, and a 2013 Week of Prayer missionary.

"We have several members who have been sponsoring children through our partner church there, and we were able to visit in their homes," says Pilgreen. "That truly brought it to reality for our people. It was eye opening to see the conditions the children live in, particularly compared to San Francisco. Then to see those people, living in what we would consider tough, even impossible, situations, exhibiting true joy. Amazing."

Epic Church works in partnership with United Christian Centre in Kampala, Uganda, a 20-year-old congregation that supports an orphanage, among other ministries. Pilgreen says the integrity of the church leadership giving guidance to 2,000 members and multiple ministries spoke to his members.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
North American Missions
March 3-10, 2013

**WHATEVER
IT TAKES**
REACHING THE ONE

National Goal: \$70 Million
AnnieArmstrong.com



SHAUNA, BEN PILGREEN

"Spending time with the kids and their families was the best. We were able to take the kids to an amusement park one day. That was a great day," says Pilgreen.

Recognizing Acts 1:8 as a comprehensive command, Epic simultaneously engages not only around the world but also across the street. One of their

see SAN FRANCISCO on p. 5

Inside this issue

Direction	4
Sunday School	7
Lessons	7
Editorial	2
Bibliography	5
How to	8
a Christian	8
Revivals	5
Home	8
Just for	7
Classified	7



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

The Great Unifier unifies us still

Throughout Southern Baptist history, God has consistently raised leaders of momentous abilities to move the denomination toward the goal of fulfilling our Lord's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). They were bold people who sought the mind of God. At times, they were forced to swim against the tide of contemporary thought as well as strong-willed but misguided individuals who sought to turn Southern Baptists in other directions.

One of the greatest and strongest of those God-chosen leaders was Annie Armstrong, the first corresponding secretary of the Woman's Mission Union (WMU) auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention, and one of the early supporters among Southern Baptists of the concept of home missions (now known as North American missions).

Annie was born into a Baltimore family whose material wealth was far above the norm for that era. Even though she was attended by servants, she soon learned the importance of helping others who were less privileged. Her mother, a generous and deeply spiritual woman, founded the Union Protestant Infirmary in Baltimore and was instrumental in starting many other such programs in the Baltimore area.

Annie grew up following her mother's example of sacrificial service. She began giving freely of her time and formidable organizational skills in volunteer work at local orphanages and poorhouses. Early in life, Annie developed a burden for the souls of uncounted number who needed to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. It was this background that Annie Armstrong carried into her Southern Baptist denominational work.

As most of us know and history records, women's involvement in the work of the denomination was bitterly opposed in the early days of WMU when Annie served as corresponding secretary. Armstrong, who would come to be known with good reason as The Great Unifier, spoke instead of a "growing ability, and of decreasing impediments to progress, which inevitably lead to a fuller understanding and acknowledgement of our position as factors of usefulness in the world's advance and evangelization. We thereby lose



ARMSTRONG

not one iota of our womanliness."

She received no salary as WMU corresponding secretary, preferring instead to funnel all gifts and offerings into missions work while paying her modest living expenses from personal funds. When the WMU executive committee in 1900 attempted to convince her to accept a salary in light of her serious financial decline, she threatened to quit rather than take the money. The idea was dropped until after her departure.

Armstrong was a great believer in trying to convince the fractious Southern Baptist entities to work together, and she succeeded to a great extent. Hence, her reputation as The Great Unifier. In 1934, the Southern Baptist offering for North American missions was named in her honor. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions ranks today as one of the greatest offering efforts in the history of evangelism.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Annie continually exhorted WMU members to remember an important fact:

These opening doors for women, never so numerous or so wide before, are God's call to us to work as we have never worked before. Rewards await us yonder, work awaits us here.

Now is the time to be in prayer about your role in North American missions — so many remain unsaved here — and in prayer about your gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. As Annie herself so eloquently pointed out, there is much left to do.

9th Hour of Prayer

America desperately needs the supernatural breath of the Spirit of God to blow afresh and anew across her land. Spiritually, she has become reminiscent of the Valley of Dry Bones the prophet Ezekiel spoke of in Ezekiel 37. The valley was filled with dry, sun-bleached bones. Ezekiel was asked if the bones could live again. The prophet was well aware that if God so desired they could and would live again, but there were conditions to be met. One condition was that Ezekiel had to preach to the bones. He did and his obedience resulted in God turning a Valley of Dry Bones into a mighty army.

Can God do it again? Will God do it again? Yes He can and will when we meet His conditions set forth in II Chronicles 7:14. There we are commanded to "seek His face and to turn from our wicked ways." Our obedience will result in a spiritual awakening that will transform our lives and our society into Christ likeness. There is hope for this great country. This hope must be more than an idea, more than a wish and more than a dream. It must be a movement of God's people coming together to fulfill the conditions of II Chronicles.

Saturday, March 9th, on the steps of the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson, Ms., Christians of every race and faith from across our state will gather from 1-2:30 p.m. for worship and praise. Then at the 9th hour (3 p.m.) prayers will begin for our nation, our state, and our leaders. We will be asking God to heal our land.

The 9th hour is mentioned quite often in the Bible. Some very unique and specific events transpired at this 3 p.m. hour. Perhaps God will use this hour to perform wonders and miracles again. Pray that God will pour out His spirit on those gathered on the steps of the Capitol resulting in a spiritual awakening that will transform every person present and then spread to all corners of this great nation.

Hopefully, the 9th Hour Movement will be a springboard for similar meetings in



Guest opinion
with Jimmy Porter

other states leading up to a gigantic prayer rally on the Mall in Washington, D.C., in August 2014. God said in the Book of Joel that in the last days he would pour out his spirit upon all flesh. Could March 9 be the fulfillment of that promise?

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state, and our leaders.

This 9th Hour Movement is a call to Christian believers who long to see God do something far more than we have ever witnessed. History speaks of great spiritual awakenings that began with prayer, some like Evan Roberts of the great Welsh Revival who prayed for 13 years before seeing 100,000 come to Christ in approximately six months.

Pastor, deacons, and church members, you are needed at this rally Saturday. Bring lawn chairs and gather for a fantastic time

of worship and praise. Churches, load your vans and buses and make your way to the Capitol. Bring your family, your friends, and your neighbors to this most important event. This rally is not about any one person or any one place; it is a group of Christians crying out to God on behalf of the United States of America. More information is available on 9th hour.org. Also, you can contact the Christian Action Commission at (601) 292-3329 or go to our website at www.ChristianAction.com for additional information.

Porter serves as executive director-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or jporter@christianaction.com.

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First LoveLoud missionary still going strong in West

DENVER (Special) — A new home, new position, new ministry, and new outlook came to Lorna Bius in the summer of 2012. There was something oddly familiar about it all. Something in a childhood memory, forgotten for years, brought back the realization that Bius had seen this before.

"I'm discovering that sometimes people need to experience LoveLoud ministry for a while before they recognize it. (That) was true in my life," says Bius, 2013 North American Mission Board Week of Prayer missionary.

Bius, the first LoveLoud catalyst appointed by the NAMB, moved from Nevada to Colorado to give leadership for the effort in the West Region for NAMB. LoveLoud is a movement of churches demonstrating God's love by meeting significant human need while sharing Christ.

"I only realized a couple of years ago that I first witnessed LoveLoud when I was a child," says Bius. "It started with my dad. When I was young, in early grade school, my dad took me with him on an errand. We drove into a neighborhood that I was unfamiliar with. He stopped in front of an old dilapidated house."

The memory of what happened next reawakened Bius' understanding of LoveLoud. "My dad went to the trunk and took out two grocery bags, one in each arm. He went to the door — it only had steps, no porch. When he knocked, an older woman answered. She pulled back the screen door and my dad disappeared inside."

"A few moments later, he came back out without the bags. He never said a thing about what he did. He showed me. I had forgotten about that day until the memory came back to me a couple of years ago. I realize now that was the first time I saw LoveLoud in action."

Now Bius hopes to multiply LoveLoud across the region. She will help discover churches that are already engaging in similar ministries, with the goal of replicated them contextually for other churches. Bius began networking almost immediately after her move.

"I've been able to follow up with people I met at the Send North America Conference and the Colorado convention annual meeting," says Bius. The Send North America Conference is NAMB's gathering for church planting and mobilization.

"I've also connected with people whose churches have been featured in state newspapers. I tell them I saw them in the paper and am interested in how their strategies are working," she says.

In addition to her new church family, Bius also has in-



LOTS TO COVER — Lorna Bius (left), North American Mission Board Week of Prayer missionary, looks over a map of Las Vegas with Eddie Hancock, Send North America: Las Vegas city coordinator. Bius, NAMB's first LoveLoud catalytic missionary, serves the West Region discovering best practices for churches reaching people with the love of Christ. (NAMB photo)

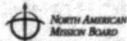
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
North American Missions
March 3-10, 2013

WHATEVER IT TAKES
REACHING THE ONE

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING®

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

National Goal: \$70 Million
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SPOTLIGHTING FAMILIES — Discovering new ways to help churches reach families is part of Lorna Bius assignment as a LoveLoud catalytic missionary, as she visits with a local family to encourage them to get involved in church. Bius is a North American Mission Board Week of Prayer missionary serving the West Region. (NAMB photo)

teraction with the Send North America: Denver team. Denver city coordinator Dave Howeth connected Bius with the group quickly. Denver is one of nine Send North America cities in the West region.

"Dave has been great. I'm so thankful that he brought me on board and helped me get established. I've made some good initial connections. Being

in Denver is great. Twitter has been helpful, and I'm engaged in informal field research."

Bius isn't the only newbie with the LoveLoud team. She was on a conference call recently with new LoveLoud team leader Jerry Daniel and the newest LoveLoud catalyst, Taylor Field.

"It was a brief conversation, but I'm excited about what Jerry

and Taylor bring to LoveLoud," says Bius. "Taylor will help church planters visualize a day-to-day strategy that not only connects with their communities, but will help them discover how they can transform their neighborhoods and reach into peoples' lives."

"Taylor said one thing that resonated with me, and I will be using it everywhere I have the

opportunity to speak. He said we need to, 'Teach our people to be light, not lightning.' We need to be there, not with just the quick strike, but for the long term. As Jerry and Al [Gilbert] say, we are called to be a faithful presence of ministry so we can tell people about Christ when they ask why we care." Field is founding pastor of Graffiti Church in New York. Gilbert is NAMB's interim vice president for evangelism.

The annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 3-10, 2013, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, provide support for Bius and other missionaries like her who serve on behalf of Southern Baptists in North America. With a goal of \$70 million, this year's offering theme is Whatever It Takes — Reaching the One.

The heart of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is to support missions, says Bius. If there is anything she has more passion for than sharing her faith, it just may be Annie.

"It is amazing to me that I am able to see when people give in Mississippi or New York and then see it used to reach someone for Christ in Phoenix," says Bius.

"I get to see the other side of the offering plate, the effects of not just the funds, but the heart behind the giving. It is incredibly potent with every offering and every voice — and not only giving, but in what the giving provides. It is phenomenal to be able to tell people that someone provided a resource because they wanted to help reach someone else for Christ. People are amazed, particularly in the West, that someone they don't know would give to help them."

Bius also sees LoveLoud as an avenue to develop future missionaries and leaders. She says LoveLoud gives people the opportunity to participate in serving others, helps them develop interests and skills, and shows them how to take those interests and skills and engage people with the Gospel.

"When people walk away from LoveLoud they haven't just done something, they are becoming something," says Bius. "LoveLoud has a real opportunity to lead to church planting."

"My parents were great influences on me. That golden thread of God's heart runs through my family and my life over the years. I have been the beneficiary, and now I get to be a cheerleader for it. I never would have dreamed it."

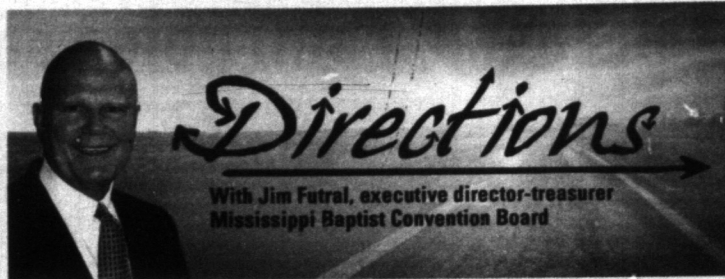
For more information about Bius, visit anniearmstrong.com/lornabius. For more information about LoveLoud, visit namb.net/loveloud.

During the winter months a large portion of my away from work time involves my being on time to basketball games. Many of those games are at Upward Basketball events as I watch my grandchildren as they are in the beginning stages of learning the game. It is always intense, exciting, and incredible to see how much they improve in just a few weeks of time.

Upward Basketball is a Christ-centered activity that involves the children, family members, and friends not only in the game of basketball, but in the greater truths of God's Word as applied to our lives. For those of you who may not be familiar with this approach, one of the things that always takes place is that at halftime everyone in attendance enters into a devotional time. Though I have heard scores of devotionals given, I have never heard one that did not bless my life and inspire me. Sometimes the person bringing the devotional has never stood before a large group of people and spoken. But there they are microphone in hand and Bible before them sharing a word from their heart and from God's Word to our hearts. It is usually a pointed truth for our daily living. The person speaking may be scared to death, but I am always blessed immensely.

On a recent Saturday morning, the person giving the devotion at one of the games was my longtime friend, Dr. Tommy Jarrett. This longtime pastor and minister of the Gospel is a gifted communicator. He did a magnificent job of talking to us about life as he talked about one of the skills in basketball being rebounding. He did an outstanding job and his devotional stayed with me throughout the day and into the days ahead.

Basketball does require multiple



Rebounding

skills and rebounding is one of those that must be worked on over and over whether you are six years old or playing in the National Basketball Association. Of course, rebounding is when the ball is shot and bounces off of the rim or backboard and all of the team members on both teams try to get the ball. It is not easy to do. But the rebound occurs when there is no goal scored. It means that whoever shot the ball missed. When the rebound is secured it is an opportunity for a second chance.

In fact, it is the story of every one of our lives. It is also the story of the Good News from heaven, the Gospel, whereby through God's grace and provisions we have another shot and another chance at life. I thought about how many of us are like so many of the notable characters in Scripture that messed up, missed a shot, failed to score, and were given another chance. I was reminded of Moses who started out protected by the very hand of God. He was trained and cared for

in the house of Pharaoh. Obviously, he was destined to be used of God, but then one day he really messed up. He killed one of the Egyptians and tried to cover up the body and hide his wrong doing. But the word was out and Moses had a scarred past and had ruined all of his future. It was a missed shot, but God was not through with Moses. He escaped to the desert where he may have thought that he would never be found. Living a life of solitude as a shepherd, one day he was found.

You remember that Moses saw a bush burning, but it was not consumed. Intrigued by what he saw, he moved over toward the bush to see what was going on, and a voice came from the bush. The voice of God was telling him to take off his sandals for the ground that he was on was holy ground. The man who had missed the shot and clearly, seemingly missed the great plans that God had for his life came to a confrontation with the God of grace and the God of second op-

portunities. There in the solitude of the desert, God called him to take another shot, to answer His call, and to become the great leader that would deliver His people. The rebounded miss found the ball in his hands again.

Then I thought of the great disciple of Jesus, Simon Peter. He seemed to be unusually gifted at saying the wrong thing at the right time and doing the wrong thing at the most inappropriate occasion. Even when he did great things like walking on water he would turn it into a missed shot and mess up. Maybe that is why so many of us see him as the leading saint with whom we can identify. But he rebounded and when Jesus left, the great opportunity of preaching the first Good News message of the resurrection to a huge crowd was Peter's on the Day of Pentecost. With courage, boldness, and clarity he scored a winning goal.

Neither time nor space will allow me to look at all of the great missed shots of God's people whether it is Elijah, David, or the Apostle Paul. There are two clear things that I can say from Scripture. **One is that we have all been there.** We have wondered if God can ever use us, and even worse we have concluded that He cannot. **Two is the greatest truth in Scripture is that God's grace and mercy provide the rebound of life in Jesus Christ.** He paid for all of our misses, our sins, and our failures. Maybe in ways that we can never believe or understand, He gives us a second or second thousandth chance. He allows us the glorious privilege of serving Him, of shooting the ball one more time, and basking in His grace one more time saying, "Lord, use me."

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

MS POSITIONS

BUCATUNNA BAPTIST CHURCH located in the Energy-Snell community of Clarke County, MS is seeking God's men for the position of a bivocational Youth Minister. Please email resumes to ddchc@bellsouth.net or mail to BBC Search Committee, P.O. Box 665, Marion, MS 39342.

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1180 EATONVILLE ROAD, HATTIESBURG, MS IS IN SEARCH OF A PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. If interested, please mail resumes to Providence Baptist Church, Attn: Marc Taylor, 1180 Eatonville Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

UNION HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH DIRECTOR. Resumes may be mailed to the church at: 1242 Nola Road N. E., Brookhaven, MS 39601, ATTENTION: Youth Director Search Committee.

STEELES FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, STEENES, MS, IS CURRENTLY IN SEARCH OF A PASTOR. Candidates must preach only from the King James Version Bible.

MINISTER OF STUDENTS/FULL-TIME POSITION, FBC MATHISTON, MS. Please submit resumes via email to mathistonfbcc@bellsouth.net or by mail at P.O. Box 260 Mathiston, MS 39752

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

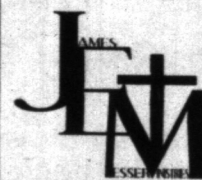
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SUN PM - OLE MISS FOOTBALL COACH HUGH FREEZE
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WED - JUNIOR HILL AND DON WILTON
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HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 7, 2013

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

2013 SENIOR DAY RETREATS

12:30-5:30 p.m.

"SENIORS – Heed how you hear the Word!"

Luke 8:18

Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

May 21

Preacher:

Jim Futral, MBCB

FBC, Vicksburg

May 23

Preacher:

Argile Smith, Pineview, La.

FBC, Picayune

May 30

Preacher:

Clarence Cooper, Brandon BC

Registration Cost: \$5 at the door or one week before the registration date to receive the gift bag. **Mail Registration to: MBCB Conference Office, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530** or call Jo at **800-748-1651, ext. 292**

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April 22 — Mississippi College, Clinton

April 23 — Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain

April 24 — William Carey University, Hattiesburg

Featured presenters at all locations:

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Wayne VanHorn

Ronald Meeks

Alan Woodward

The book of Revelation – "Together for Christ"
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact Keith Gordon for more information,
1-800-748-1651, ext. 307, or 601-292-3307.

Registration requested.

Pastor/Leadership Development Department



6:30 – 9 p.m.

CONFERENCES

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- Pastors and General Officers
- Children's Rotation: Missions, Music, Crafts, Snacks, Decorations
- Club VBS: Jungle Jant
- VBS planning help.

APRIL 15, 2013
Interstate Baptist Church
Shaw, Miss.

APRIL 16, 2013
Calvary Baptist Church
Batesville, Miss.

APRIL 18, 2013
First Baptist Church
Kosciusko, Miss.

APRIL 22, 2013
First Baptist Church
McComb, Miss.
APRIL 23, 2013
Crosspoint
Hattiesburg, Miss.

For more information contact Angie Boydston at aboydstun@mbcb.org or Jo Wasson at jwasson@mbcb.org or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292

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MBCB, 601-292-3226

STATE PREACHING CONFERENCE

April 22 — Mississippi College, Clinton
April 23 — Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain
April 24 — William Carey University, Hattiesburg

Featured presenters at all locations:

Daniel Caldwell
Wayne VanHorn
Ronald Meeks
Alan Woodward

The book of Revelation — "Together for Christ"
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact Keith Gordon for more information,
1-800-748-1651, ext. 307, or 601-292-3307.

Registration requested.

Pastor/Leadership Development Department

LifeWay Architecture

March 19, 2013
Skyroom, MBCB Baptist Building
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Provide key leaders with quality church facility information.
Registration requested. Please contact the Pastor/
Leadership Development Dept., 1-800-748-1651, ext.
305, 601-292-3305 or cwtaylor@mbcb.org.



Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton
10 a.m. Monday - 4 p.m. Tuesday
Registration is required.
For more information, contact Cathy Taylor, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305,
or 601-292-3305
Pastor/Leadership Development Department

*Purse-only
Your Ministry*

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STATE
MINISTRY ASSISTANTS CONFERENCE
APRIL 8-9, 2013
"So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding."
Romans 14:19 (ESV)



OPEN ACTIVITIES:
Basketball
Volleyball
Fishing
Tomahawk Throw
Croch

COMPETITIONS:
State RA Racers
Rifle Marksmanship
Obstacle Course
Put-Put Golf
Basketball Free-Throw
Speak-Out
Show and Tell
Bible Storying
Sonnets
Mission Projects

**CHURCH GROUP
COMPETITIONS:**
Volleyball
Flag Football

**LAD/CRUSADER DAY
ONLY:**
Begins 8 a.m. Saturday
morning

SPECIAL GUESTS:
• Gary Permenter
• Mississippi Department
of Wildlife, Fishery, and
Parks officials
• Missionary speakers

All racers must be official RA Racers.
Available for purchase at www.royalracers.com
Divisions for Competition
Grade 1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, and Grade 6
Awards (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons)
1st Place - 10 points
2nd Place - 5 points
Car Specifications
Body Length - 7 inches (max.)
Body Width - 2 3/4 inches (max.)
Total Car Weight - 5 ounces (max.)
The wheels on the car must be the ones in the kit.

Speak-Out Topics:
"What I've learned in RAs this year"
"What missions is all about"
"What I've done in missions through RAs this year"

For registration forms or more information contact the Men's Ministry Department
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 335
dgonn@mbcb.org

ONE DAY STEWARDSHIP REVIVAL

Stewardship Bible Study

Inspirational Preaching

Church Giving Analysis

Consultant-Led Training

Together for Christ



To schedule a Stewardship Revival, contact:
Lisa Leavell, Ministry Assistant
Stewardship/Cooperative Program Department
601-292-3347, 1-800-738-1651
lleavell@mbcb.org

2013 Camp Garaywa Leader-in-Training

Leader-in-Training positions are available for high school girls ages 16-18. If you are interested in missions and serving a week in the camping ministry, we'd like to hear from you!

Applications are available at garaywa.org

For more info, contact Jessica 601-924-7034
jmorrison@garaywa.org

May 20, FBC, New Albany
May 21, FBC, Columbia
6 p.m. Dinner
7-9 p.m. Conference

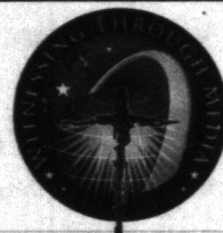
Pastor MINISTER OF EDUCATION SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

WORKING TOGETHER...
GROWING STRONG
CHURCHES

Conference

Come see how "working together" makes a difference. God put Clarence Cooper and Mary Dickman together as senior pastor and associate pastor/minister of education at Brandon Baptist Church, Brandon, Miss. They have been a remarkable team. God has used them to lead Brandon Baptist Church to continuous growth as they together cast the vision, enlist and develop leadership, and motivate their members to serve. Come hear how they have done this, and see how you can do the same in your district.

For more information contact Carolyn Day
1-800-748-1651, ext. 291
or 601-292-3291
cday@mbcb.org



WITNESSING THROUGH MEDIA

Awards Banquet & Workshop

MAY 3 - 4, 2013

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,
RIDGELAND, MISS.

Awards Competition:

- Entries in the Award Competition must have been produced or aired between April 1, 2012, and March 1, 2013

- Awards entry deadline is March 8, 2013

- Awards entry cost \$15 per entry

Banquet and Workshop:

- Banquet and workshop registration deadline is April 19, 2013
- Registration for all activities is \$30 per person
- Friday Awards Banquet only or Saturday Workshop only is \$25 per person

Watch for more information coming to you soon!



MONDAY, APRIL 29

Hardy Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Two services: 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Mass Senior Adult Choir

Preacher: Fred Wolfe, Mobile, Ala.

Special Guest: Andrew Ishee, Laurel

Music Director: Slater Murphy, MBCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Glenn Shows, gshows@mbcb.org
Daniel Hall, dhall@mbcb.org
Ken Hopkins, khopkins@hardysbc.net
(601-544-1794)

Pray this day for...

March 8 - 23, 2013

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom..."

Colossians 3:16

Pray for these teams as they go out: 24 from FBC Florence to New York (3/10-3/15); 29 from FBC Kitchikan to Dom. Republic (3/10-3/17).

Pray for: Clarence Frank and Phoebe Harrison, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Honduras through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: Brian* and Felicia* Henderson, missionaries to American Peoples in Peru through regional office support and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: Earl* and Ramona Hewitt, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the U.S. through medicine and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: Raymond* and Cynthia Hodgins, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples in the U.S. through sports evangelism and church/home outreach.

Pray for these teams as they go out: 19 from North Greenwood BC to Haiti (3/8-3/16); 21 from SW Community College BSU to New York (3/8-3/16); 6 from MC BSU to Mexico (3/9-3/16); 13 from FBC Terry to Haiti (3/8-3/21); 14 from Southern Miss BSU to Vancouver (3/8-3/15).

Pray for these teams as they go out: 13 from Lauderdale Assoc. to Costa Rica (3/8-3/13); 4 from FBC Madison to Venezuela (3/9-3/14); 14 from Trinity BC, Fulton to Dom. Republic (3/9-3/15). (Continued below)

Pray for: Janet* Hol-loway, IMB missionary ministering to European Peoples in Russia through student evangelism.

Pray for: Daniel and Claudia* Hood, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Kenya through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: Don* and Valery Hulse, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Portugal through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: Tony* and Denise* Inman, missionaries to American Peoples in Uruguay through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: Floyd* and Sharon Johnston, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of 9 from Mountain Heights BC traveling to Morocco, March 15-24, on medical missions.

March 25: Pray for a team of 9 from William Carey University BSU traveling to England, March 7-18.

Pray for: Jeffrey* and Liesa* Holtean, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through community outreach, church/home outreach and evangelism.

(cont. from 3/9)
26 from Auburn BC, Tupelo (3/9-3/15); 12 from FBC Clinton to Mexico (3/9-3/14); 26 from FBC Jersey La Torrela (3/9-3/16); 10 from MC BSU to Mexico (3/9-3/16); 18 from Southern Miss BSU to Rhode Island (3/9-3/15).

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

SAVE THE DATES!

Missionary Parents Fellowship
Dates: Friday, April 19 – Saturday, April 20, 2013
Time: April 19, 2 p.m. – April 20, 12:30 p.m.
Location: Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton

Mississippi Missionary Fellowship
Date: Saturday, April 20, 2013
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton

MISSISSIPPI ADOPT A SUMMER MISSIONARY

This year, Mississippi BSU will send over 150 students around the world as summer missionaries. To adopt one of these students, please follow this link to fill out the "Adopt A Summer Missionary" form.
www.mbc.org/adopt

For more information contact:
Peggy Powell at 601-292-3299
or ppowell@mbcb.org

ENCOURAGE AN MK WITH A CARD!

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

5-1-08 MISS TAYLOR DEWETT Parents: Ted & Kerri American Peoples	5-16-00 MISS ADDIE GRACE PUTHAM Parents: Tracy & Ganda European Peoples	
5-1-08 MISS KAMRYN DEWETT Parents: Ted & Kerri American Peoples	5-16-06 MR MICAH PEACOCK Parents: Kevin & Brenda European Peoples	
5-3-99 MISS ADRIAN S. Parents: Jerry & Kelly Restricted	05-18-11 MISS ALANA Parents: J & M Restricted	
5-5-00 MR. PATRICK N. Parents: J & J Restricted	5-22-00 MISS KATHRYN C. Parents: J & T Restricted	
05-14-99 MR. JACKSON HOLEMAN Parents: Jeff & Lisa America Affinity Group	5-22-11 MISS SADIE C. Parents: J & T Restricted	
05/15/09 MR. JUDSON NOSKER Parents: Keth & Susan Restricted	5-23-01 MISS ANNA CLAIRE Parents: Jim & Penni Last Frontier	
5-15-96 MR. PATRICK AUSTIN Parents: Arnold & Susie American Peoples	5-24-10 Mr. J.D. Parents: D & L Restrict-1	
	5-24-11 MISS SARAH S. Parents: J & C Restricted	
	5-26-10 MR. CHUZ WHITE Parents: David & Regina American Peoples	
	05/29/03 MR. CALES S. Parents: S & M Last Frontier	

HOUSE TOPS

NEW ORLEANS

cont. from p. 1

is reaching through her ministry at Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans. With a motto to "meet needs through love, action and truth," the Baptist Friendship House exists to serve and support vulnerable women and children as they transition into new lives.

The ministry offers housing to homeless women and children as well as life-skill training in areas ranging from literacy and computer skills to GED and college preparation.

"Most of the women who come into our transitional program are getting out of a bad situation," Bennett says. "The important thing to realize is that these women often get stuck in vicious cycles of addiction or abuse, and if there's not someone there to help them break the cycle they have a hard time breaking free.

Through Baptist Friendship House, I'm able to come alongside them and help them get out of the cycle for good."

In addition to the transitional housing program, Bennett and her team host numerous community outreach events throughout the year designed to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their community. At the crux of Bennett's ministry is a desire to reach the whole person, starting with their physical and emotional needs before ultimately seeking to see them spiritually transformed through the power of Christ.

"We see people who come to us with deep needs, and many have never even heard who Jesus is. If I walk up to that person and start just quoting Scriptures without offering to help with their immediate needs, they'll never hear it. When they come in and see us simply being Christ to them, that starts building a bridge to share the gospel

and see life change happen."

Bennett has been reaching the hearts of New Orleans through Baptist Friendship House for the last 15 years. Originally from Mississippi, she came to the city more than two decades ago to complete her Master of Divinity Degree at New Orleans Seminary. She served as a missionary at the Brantley Baptist Center for nine years before taking on her current role at Baptist Friendship House in 1997.

In her time of service, Bennett has developed a heart not just for the women and children of New Orleans but also for the city itself. "New Orleans is such a laid back city with something for everyone. If you've never fit in anywhere in your life, you would find a place to fit in New Orleans."

However, Bennett recognizes that much of what the city is known for today are the things that give it a darker side. "There is certainly a heavier side to the city. Things like strip clubs, alcoholism, prostitution, they mark our city as well."

The annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 3-10, 2013, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, provide support for Bennett and other missionaries like her who serve

on behalf of Southern Baptists in North America. With a goal of \$70 million, this year's offering theme is, *Whatever It Takes - Reaching the One*.

"For more than 20 years the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has provided for my salary as a missionary here in New Orleans," said Bennett. "I have not had to worry about raising funds to support me while I do the ministry that God has called me to do, and this allows me to totally focus on His work."

Bennett is boldly ministering to the needs of those looking to be rescued from the darker side of the city. Her latest challenge is fighting the rapidly-growing battle against human trafficking that is dominating the United States and, in particular, the city of New Orleans.

"Human trafficking is the largest criminal industry in the world and the second largest in the United States," Bennett states. "In New Orleans, we have a lot of prostitution, a lot of clubs on Bourbon Street, and we're located on I-10, the highest-rated corridor for trafficking in the country. These things make it easy for vulnerable girls to be transported through the city and sold for sex."

Through her ministry at Bap-

tist Friendship House, Bennett is able to provide an alternative to those vulnerable to trafficking as well as direct those already victimized to safe havens in the city.

"It is really easy for someone living in desperation to be lured into a trafficking situation and then held captive there. New Orleans is an attraction for runaways and runaways are attractive to traffickers. We are trying to intercept these vulnerable girls and bring them into our program before they get lost. If they've been trafficked and rescued, we're able to work with local law enforcement to get them into a safe house."


Though ministry like Bennett's can seem risky at times, she believes she is exactly where she is supposed to be - on the frontlines combatting the problems that plague the women and children in the darkness of New Orleans.

"In this work, I know I am in the center of God's will," Bennett says with assurance, "and there's no safer place to be."

Editor's note: For more information on Bennett, visit anniearmstrong.com/kaybennett. For more information about how to get involved in reaching New Orleans with the Gospel, visit namb.net/NewOrleans.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Rocky Mount Church, Calhoun Association:** Revival, Mar. 10 - 13; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, speaker; Larry W. Haggard, pastor.

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EDP KBS YROP YEH YUKB ZRP, EDP KBS

YROP YEH ZRP.

VRBD RDS: RDS

Clue: O = R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke One: Sixty-Eight

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

SAN FRANCISCO

cont. from p. 1

longest-standing relationships is with A Woman's Place, a transitional residence that takes in battered women.

Recently, six partner churches brought 70 volunteers for Epic Church's Hope for the City. "Teams went in and totally redesigned rooms to make them brighter and give them a happier feel," says Pilgreen. "Then the teams hit the neighborhoods and local parks cleaning and doing whatever was needed. The Department of Public Works was incredibly appreciative. They see us as

good neighbors and that helps us in the community.

"Our volunteers also helped us host City Impact, events for children with games and interaction. That was a meaningful time for us and another great opportunity where people recognized us as contributing to the community."

Another challenging aspect of doing church in a place like San Francisco is that you encounter issues most churches don't have to consider. Pilgreen relies on God's wisdom and the counsel of godly Christians to help him navigate.

From the complex to the simple, Pilgreen points to one family in the church who came to Epic after receiving an invitation flier handed out by volunteers. It was for Epic's inaugural preview service.

"Volunteers handed out invitations," says Pilgreen. "Anna picked one up and came. Eventually she came to faith and brought her family to Epic. Her husband came to faith, too. She told us Epic helped save her life and her marriage."

"You don't know how a simple act, as simple as handing someone a piece of paper, can affect someone's life. Our partners and volunteers are vital to us. You have to sow a lot of seeds."

Looking to the future, Epic Church will hire its first Epic Kids director in 2013. The Church's leadership also continues to write the church's entire small-group curriculum.

"We publish it in book form," says Pilgreen. "We realized early on that our members trust us, but they don't know any 'names'

in Christian publishing.

"We are at three services and about 260 on Sunday. We have 13 Epic Groups now. We are looking to expand into the north, east, and south parts of the city," says Pilgreen of Epic's small-group strategy.

The Pilgreens, parents to Elijah, 9, Sam, 7, and Asher, 5, are adopting a daughter from India. "It's another adventure. Why not?" said Pilgreen.

If helping a thriving church plant and raising four children isn't enough, Shauna released her first book last year entitled, *The Same Page*, co-authored with Courtney Bullard. She also writes for NAMB pastors' wives blog, <http://www.flourish.me/>.

The annual Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 3-10, 2013, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, provide support for Pilgreen and other missionaries like him who serve on behalf of Southern Baptists in North America. With a goal of \$70 million, this year's offering theme is *Whatever It Takes - Reaching the One*.

"This offering allows us to move forward with the ministry initiatives we believe God is calling us to engage in on a weekly basis," says Pilgreen. "It allows us to pursue opportunities we believe will make a real difference in our church and in our city."

Editor's note: Learn more about Ben Pilgreen at anniearmstrong.com/benpilgreen. To learn more about Epic Church, visit epicsf.com. For more information about how to get involved in reaching San Francisco with the Gospel, visit namb.net/SanFrancisco.

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

DECEMBER 16-31, 2012

HONORS

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Mrs. Annie Mae Crantham
Louise Griffith
Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Daughdrill
Paul Gunzelman, RMG Corp.
Clark McNair
Mrs. Nellie Hale
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
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Mr. & Mrs. C. T. Danna
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Denise Strickland
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Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
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DECEMBER 16-31, 2012

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Place God In Your Worship • 1 Timothy 2:1-15

God desires that His followers grow in holiness and knowledge of Him. According to Philippians 1:6, Jesus started a good work in each of us and seeks to continue it until He comes or we go to Him. As we mature in Christ, we please the Lord increasingly through prayer and worship. This Sunday School lesson encourages believers to please God through public worship.

Paul wrote concerning worship in 1 Timothy 2:8, "Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument." CSB. While recent emphases in worship has been on the style of music, use of overheads, or the selection of songs, this passage details spiritual worship desired by the Lord.

God is much more concerned about the content of our hearts than our bulletins in worship. From this one verse we glean great truths about God's desire for our worship.

First, God desires holy worship. The biblical concept of holiness concerns our availability to God. None of us are holy on our own. We are made holy by the Lord when we receive Jesus into our hearts. The Old and New Testament concepts of holiness involve setting aside something. A sacrifice was declared holy when it was given

to the Lord, rather than eaten or sold. A person is holy when he or she is also committed to Christ rather than the world.

No wood has inherent holiness, yet when a tree is felled, wood planned and a shape cut to form a pulpit, the builder sets it aside for the Lord's use. Another part of the same tree may have been used to make a bar with drinking patrons around it. The difference in the wood was its use. We are holy when we are set aside for God's use.

Holy hands are set aside for the Lord's use. Paul told the Ephesians who previously were thieves to use their hands for good from then on. Our hands raised to the Lord demonstrate our service to the Lord with those hands. "Lifting" is a participle in the original language as in English, denoting ongoing action. Holiness and prayer must become daily exercise for believers.

Second, God desires worship without anger or argument. The first

part of this desire concerns other people. Jesus said in Matthew 5:23-24, "So if you are offering your gift on the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift." CSB. God will not be part of a cavalier worship that ignores failed relationships with others.

John wrote in 1 John 4:20, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen."

The second part of this desire concerns our problem with God. The Greek word for argument may also be translated reasoning or doubting. That means we trust in the Lord and do not attempt to rationalize our sins or our disobedience. Worship of God is on His terms or it is not worship at all.

Third, God desires honest wor-

ship. Raised hands are a sign of honesty. When men wore swords on their left hips, they offered their right hand to a friend to show the sword was not being drawn. We show both hands to say we have no weapon behind our backs. When one is robbed, he raises his hands in surrender. So we raise our hands in surrender to the Lord, saying with our hands that we have no deception or weapons behind our backs. Raised hands say I am your friend, not your enemy.

Fourth, God desires commitment with our worship. When Abraham met Melchizedek in Genesis 14, he lifted his hand to him in worship. Melchizedek was the King of Salem and his name means King of Righteousness. As he worshiped, Abraham gave his tithe to this priest long before the Law required a tithe. God expects that our worship is more than words, and is also actions confirming our words, including a tithe, which is the Lords.

God desires holy, pure, honest, and sincere worship. When we worship the Lord in this way, we are truly concerned less about the style of music and more about the condition of our hearts.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.



Explore the Bible
with Rick Henson

Half-Hearted Interest or Total Commitment? • Luke 9:20-26, 57-62

Our new health-care plan offers a Silver Sneakers® program. By providing us with free access to gym facilities and exercise/fitness guidance, they hope we'll become healthier, thus lowering coverage costs. Excited to participate, hubby and I visited two places that are part of the program. The first gave us an extensive health questionnaire requiring our physician's approval before using the facilities; thus, we were on hold. The second facility asked for a copy of our insurance card and some basic information; we then enjoyed a refreshing swim! Both places welcomed the program's participants, but each had different criteria.

This week, we'll see that Jesus had some demanding criteria for those who would follow Him, and the same standard applied to all. More is required than "liking" Jesus on Facebook, or warming a pew on Sunday morning. For a moment, visualize your church's bulletin board or announcement screen. Is there room for this event? "Growth opportunity for all believers. Register for an intensive course in self-denial, suffering, and loss." Hmmm... wonder how many would sign up?

In this lesson's setting, as Jesus was alone with His disciples, He asked them: "Who do the crowds say I am?" (Luke 9:18 NIV) Before issuing His requirements, the Lord wanted to be sure they understood His all-encompassing authority. As He shared the horrors awaiting Him as Golgotha's shadow

neared, He told these comrades that a "cross" also awaited all who would follow Him (vs. 23). Referring to a believer's cross, Henry Blackaby (in *Experiencing God Day by Day*) says, "There are aspects of God's redemptive work that can be accomplished only through suffering."

Note we're commanded to "take up" this cross daily. Our individual cross is not some difficulty thrust upon us that we have no control over; instead, it involves difficult situations we willingly embrace to help advance the Lord's purposes. Knowing this choice could well involve pain, rejection, or other unpleasantness, will you deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus this week?

Verses 24-26 speak of loss. Losing our life to save it requires death to self. "When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die," affirmed Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor martyred for Christ. Instead of living for pleasure and self-indulgence, we're challenged to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" that we may successfully complete our "race" (Hebrews 12:1 NIV).

Whatever our station in life, there are distinct ways each of us can lose our life for Jesus; pray for guidance and be open to God-ordained opportunities!

Heading toward Calvary, Jesus continued to call people to follow Him (Luke 9:57-62). Several said in essence, "Yes, I'll follow you, but..." These, like many today, wanted a Christ without a cross.

Surrender: the Heart God Controls, details a young couple's response to Christ's

call to discipleship: "One Sunday afternoon, in the spring of 1951... they were gripped by the realization that knowing and serving the

Lord Jesus was more important than any other pursuit in life," author Nancy DeMoss relates. Kneeling in their living room and voicing a prayer of complete abandonment, this husband and wife signed a contract relinquishing the totality of their life to the Lord they'd come to cherish. Bill and Vonnelle Bright, calling themselves "voluntary slaves of Christ," became founders of Campus Crusade for Christ. Decades later, the two were a household name in the Christian world. This organization's "Jesus" film,

translated into more than 1160 languages in 200 countries, has seen more than 200 million commitments to Christ registered by the film's viewers.

In *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren describes surrender as "the natural response to God's amazing love and mercy." The author has found there are "three barriers that block our total surrender to God: fear, pride, and confusion." Addressing these issues helps an individual discover "the blessing of surrender," including peace, freedom, and God's power in one's life.

To check your level of commitment, here's an exercise to try: Contemplate 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and Romans 6:18, then write the word "surrender" or "slave" on several strips of paper. Attach strips to your calendar/planner, checkbook, computer, refrigerator, car dash, television, phone, alarm clock, and Bible. Keep a notebook handy and journal the difference having these constant reminders of Christ's ownership and lordship make in your daily life.

"Following Jesus will lead you into experiences you never dreamed of!" says Henry Blackaby. What adventures would full surrender bring you? What are you waiting for?

Maniscalco is a member of LeMoyné Boulevard Church, Biloxi.



Bible Studies for Life
with Ann Maniscalco

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Just for the Record



FIRST CHURCH, VICKSBURG,

ratified a New Church Start Fund Feb. 20. Daniel Hall, Mississippi Baptist Foundation, received checks totaling \$25,750 as an initial investment. Shown are Doug Hassell, Calvin Pugh, Hall, pastor Matt Buckles, Martin Chaney, Kathie Sills, and Ryan Lee.



HERITAGE HEIGHTS CHURCH, LAUREL,

ordained Charles Brady, Kelly Simmons, Joe Bigbie, Larry Hupe, and Mike Burger as deacons Feb. 24. Shown are pastor Ken Regan, Brady, Simmons, Bigbie, Hupe, and Burger.



MACEDONIA CHURCH, PETAL'S, children's ministry hosted a Lovely Ladies Valentine Lunch for the church widows Feb. 10. The children made crafts, set the tables, served and visited with the ladies, and helped clean afterwards.

In other Church News:

► **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia**, is hosting Squire Parsons in concert Mar. 10, 11 a.m. Love offering.



GRACEWOOD CHURCH, SOUTHAVEN,

held a GA recognition recently. Shown, front row, are Remi Freeman, Breannah Word, Savannah Ballard, and Trinity Tate; back row, Anna Cook (leader), Ashlynn Carter, Sydney Ballard, Layna Carter, Whitney Moss, and Ann Westgard (leader).

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words.

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. I have sinned.

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.

(I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.

God we thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit to live in the children of God. Amen.

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



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